



3672

**McKinney  
&Stringer**  
a professional corporation

☐ DESIGN

☒ UTILITY PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: David R. Payne, Gerald A. Stangl,  
Norman E. Stevens, Jr., and Michael  
F. Gard

Att'y Dkt. No.: 82380-0339

Serial No.: 09/481,351

Filed: January 12, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
AUTOMATICALLY DRILLING AND  
BACKREAMING A HORIZONTAL  
BORE UNDERGROUND

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 11 2001**

**TO 3600 MAIL ROOM**

Corporate Tower

101 North Robinson

Suite 1300

Oklahoma City, OK 73102

405.239.6444

fax 405.239.7902

Mid-Continent Tower

401 South Boston

Suite 3100

Tulsa, OK 74103

918.582.3176

fax 918.582.1403

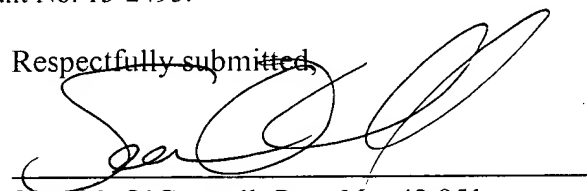
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR BEFORE MAILING  
OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 CFR 1.97(b))**

The Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 (Modified) and copies of cited references, and a pre-addressed postal card are submitted herewith and are being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2493.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sean V. O'Connell, Reg. No. 42,951  
McKINNEY & STRINGER, P.C.  
Corporate Tower  
101 North Robinson, Suite 1300  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102-5504  
Phone: 405/272-1915  
Fax: 405/239-7902  
Attorney for Applicant

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on December 26, 2000, with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Sean V. O'Connell  
Name of applicant, assignee or  
registered representative  
SVO/dr/418300

  
Signature

December 26, 2000  
Date



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement.**

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

*(check sections forming a part of this statement: discard unused sections and number pages consecutively)*

1. ☒ Preliminary Statements
2. ☒ FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)
3. ☐ Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4. ☐ Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted
5. ☐ Cumulative Patents or Publications
6. ☒ Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement

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Sean V. O'Connell  
Name of applicant, assignee or  
registered representative

Signature

December 26, 2000  
Date

7. ☐ Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items
- 7A. ☐ EPO Search Report
- 7B. ☐ English Language Version of EPO Search Report
8. ☒ Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents
9. ☒ Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

**Section 1. Preliminary Statements**

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

**Section 2. Form PTO-1449 (Modified)**

- ☒ A completed Form PTO-1449 (Modified) is attached hereto.
- ☐ No Form PTO-1449 (Modified) is attached.

**Section 6. Copies of Listed Information items Accompanying this Statement**

Legible copies of all items listed in Form PTO-1449 (Modified) accompany this information disclosure statement.

- ☐ Exception(s) to above:
- ☐ Items in prior application from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.
- ☐ Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

**Section 8. Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents**

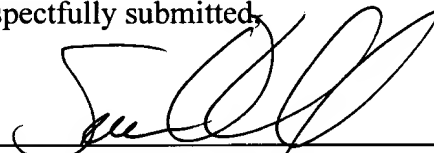
- ☒ Submitted herewith is an English translation of the following foreign language patents, publications or information of those portions of those patents, publications or information considered to be material: EP 0799969 A2.
- ☐ No English language translations of the foreign language patents, publications or information or parts thereof are readily available, except for those listed above.
- ☐ The following foreign language documents submitted are believed to be the equivalent or substantial equivalent of the English language documents identified below, which are also submitted herewith.

**Section 9. Identification of Person(s) Making this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The person making this statement is the attorney who signs below on the basis of the information:

- ☒ supplied by the inventor(s).
- ☐ supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)).
- ☒ in the attorney's file.

Respectfully submitted,



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Sean V. O'Connell, Reg. No. 42,951  
McKINNEY & STRINGER, P.C.  
Corporate Tower  
101 North Robinson, Suite 1300  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102-5504  
Phone: 405/272-1915  
Fax: 405/239-7902  
Attorney for Applicant

SVO/tdr/418299